--- “Series of 1883” - 25 Cigars - Black - 325 x 22 mm - with pointed ends ---

The catalogue lists the ‘pointed end” black twenty-five cigar “Series of 1883” as follows:

RG-223(L) - 25 cigars, black, perf 12, *lithographed* on horizontal mesh wove - with 4 mm. blue controls
RG-223 - 25 cigars, black, perf 12, *recess printed* by hand press on vertical mesh wove - 4 mm. blue controls

The catalogue lists the ‘blunt ends’ black twenty-five cigar “Series of 1883” as follows:

RG-227 - 25 cigars, black, perforated 12, recess printed by rotary press on unwatermarked wove - 4 mm. blue controls
RG-228 - 25 cigars, black, *coarse roulette*, recess printed by rotary press on unwatermarked wove - 4 mm. blue controls
RG-230 - 25 cigars, black, *coarse roulette*, recess printed by rotary press on unwatermarked wove - 5 mm. blue controls

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3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) John McKay records 127,875 *lithographed* “25 Black Cigars” as delivered. These are the ‘pointed’ end **RG-223(L)**.

4th BABN Contract (1886-1892) John McKay records 603,813 *lithographed* “25 Black Cigars” as delivered. These also are the ‘pointed’ end **RG-223(L)**.

5th BABN Contract (1892-1897) John McKay records 143,700 copies (*recess printed* by hand press) and 457,612 copies (*recess printed* by rotary press) of “25 Black Cigars” as delivered. *Recess printed* - The former were ‘pointed end’ **RG-223** and the latter were ‘rounded’ end **RG-227-228-230**.

5th BABN Supplement (1897-1898) John McKay records 149,700 copies of “25 Black Cigars” (*recess printed* - hand press) as delivered. These were the residual ‘pointed’ end **RG-223** strips.

These last copies of **RG-227** initially had been printed in Montreal under the **5th BABN Contract** and remained in BABN stock when they lost the printing contract to ABN in 1897. By mutual agreement they were made available while ABN worked ‘up-to-speed’ with the die preparation and the printing of the “Series of 1897”
These last copies of **G-176a** initially had been printed in Montreal under the **5th BABN Contract** and remained in BABN stock when they lost the printing contract to ABN in 1897. By mutual agreement they were made available while ABN worked ‘up-to-speed’ with the die preparation and the printing of the “Series of 1897”

3rd BABN Contract	127,875 lithographed	**000001** to **127875** - **RG-223 (L)**
4th BABN Contract	603,813 lithographed	**127876** to **731688** - **RG-223 (L)**
5th BABN Contract	143,700 recess (hand press)	**731689** to **857389** - **RG-223**
5th BABN Supplement	149,700 recess (hand press)	**857390** to 1-**025089** - **RG-223**
5th BABN Contract	457,612 recess (rotary press)	1-**025090** to 1-**482701** - **RG-227-228-230**

The black twenty-five cigar control numbers continue past **999999** and reset to **000001** dropping the one million prefix as usual. I am assuming that the *hand press* recess printed **RG-223** were actually printed and control numbered under the **5th BABN Contract** as a single batch, some of which became the **Supplement** shipment.

One would think that the ‘rounded end’ twenty-five cigar strips would run a new, separate, control number sequence from that used on the ‘pointed end’ strips. However the control number **946518**, as found on **RG-228**, indicates that the control numbering probably ran in one continuous, unbroken, sequence from the *lithographed* **RG-223(L)** through the rotary *recess printed* **RG-223** ending with the hand press *recess printed* **RG-223** as ‘delivered’ under the **5th BABN Supplement**.

The return to Ottawa in 1887 did not occur overnight and many operations were still performed in Montreal. Thus the initial copies of **RG-223** and **RG-227** were printed and control numbered (with 4 mm. controls) in Montreal and the final copies, having been shipped to Ottawa, received 5 mm. control numbering as **RG-230**.

--- *lithographed* in "Montreal" - on horizontal mesh wove - with 4 mm. blue controls ---

--- RG-223 (L) - perf 12 - scanned at 50% scale ---

★**RG-223(L)** - 25 cigars, black, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. control **262931**

242566	RG-223(L)	25 cigars, black, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove
242579-87★	RG-223(L)	25 cigars, black, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove - nine
262929★	RG-223(L)	25 cigars, black, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove
262931★	RG-223(L)	25 cigars, black, perf 12, on horizontal mesh wove

★**RG-223n(L)** - 25 cigars, black, perf 12, without controls, on horizontal mesh wove -★ ***two copies***

--- *recess printed* by hand press in "Montreal" - on vertical mesh wove - with 4 mm. blue controls ---

--- RG-223 - perf 12 - scanned at 50% scale ---

★**RG-223** - 25 cigars, black, perf 12, with 4 mm. control **061932**, *recess printed* by hand press on *vertical* mesh wove cancelled **12 . 17 / 20 . 92** by "Samuel Romain", Montreal, in April 1892

[actually I am not sure of the year - it is blurred but being recess printed it shouldn't be earlier than 1892]

1-**061932**★	04/92	RG-223	25 cigars, black, perf 12, on vertical mesh wove, coded **12 . 17 / 20 . 92** ?

File path is c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RG_STAMPS \ 1883 \ Black \ 25 cigars - pointed ends],
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